

Message Text

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SUBJ: CODEL PERCY VISITS PAKISTAN

SUMMARY: SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY, ACCOMPANIED BY FAMILY MEMBERS, DEPARTED PAKISTAN FOR INDIA AUGUST 21 AFTER 10 DAY COMBINED OFFICIAL/PLEASURE TRIP. SENATOR MET LEADING GOP OFFICIALS, MET PRESS, AND FLEW OVER FLOOD AREAS. HE RECEIVED FRIENDLY WELCOME. VISIT USEFUL FROM EMBASSY VIEWPOINT BY DEMONSTRATING TO PAKS CONTINUED INTEREST OF PROMINENT AMERICANS IN WELFARE AND PROGRESS OF PAKISTAN. END SUMMARY

1. SENATOR AND MRS. PERCY, TWO OF THEIR CHILDREN, AND 13 RELATIVES OF MRS. PERCY VISITED PAKISTAN AUGUST 12 THROUGH AUGUST 21. SENATOR'S VISIT WAS COMBINED OFFICIAL AND VACATION TRIP. DURING OFFICIAL PORTION OF VISIT, SENATOR HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRINCIPAL GOP OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE THEN PRESIDENT, MR. BHUTTO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED AND VARIOUS OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. SENATOR ALSO RECEIVED DELEGATION REPRESENTING RELATIVES OF PAK POWS. DESPITE HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH COMING INTO FORCE OF NEW PAKISTAN CONSTITUTION AUGUST 14, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT BHUTTO RECEIVED CODEL DURING ALMOST ONE HOUR

MEETING AT HIS RESIDENCE AUGUST 13. (CONVERSATION REPORTED ISLAMABAD 6543.) IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH MINSTATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (SEE ISLAMABAD 6544), MINSTATE HOSTED LUNCHEON FOR SENATOR AND MRS. PERCY. NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF SENATE ALSO HOSTED LUNCH WHILE FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US AND SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION) MFA, GENERAL RAZA, HOSTED DINNER. SENATOR HELD 30 MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE AND GAVE 30 MINUTE INTERVIEW TO RADIO PAKISTAN (TEXTS OF BOTH REPORTED USINFO CHANNEL). IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS MEETINGS IN ISLAMABAD, SENATOR FLEW OVER FLOODED AREAS IN CENTRAL PUNJAB AUGUST 20 IN PAKISTAN AIR FORCE HELICOPTER MADE AVAILABLE ESPECIALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. DURING VACATION PORTION OF SENATOR'S VISIT, HE AND FAMILY MEMBERS VISITED GILGIT AND HUNZA. BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER PARTY WERE UNABLE TO FLY TO GILGIT AND TOOK LAND ROUTE THROUGH SWAT. GOP MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT HIS VISIT TO THESE REMOTE NORTHERN AREAS WAS SUCCESSFUL. PRESIDENT BHUTTO MADE HIS PERSONAL HELICOPTER AVAILABLE FOR FLIGHTS WITHIN REGION. RESIDENT COMMISSIONER GILGIT AND MIR OF HUNZA ARRANGED SPECIAL FESTIVITIES SUCH AS POLO MATCHES AND LOCAL FOLK DANCE EXHIBITIONS. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND ANOTHER PROTOCOL OFFICIAL ACCOMPANIED SENATOR DURING HIS STAY IN THESE AREAS. JUDGING FROM COMMENTS OF SENATOR AND FAMILY MEMBERS, GILGIT/HUNZA VISIT WAS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS.

3. IN HIS PRIVATE TALKS WITH PAKISTAN OFFICIALS AND IN HIS COMMENTS TO PRESS AND RADIO, SENATOR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER PAKISTAN'S FOOD PERFORMANCE DURING THE PAST YEAR, ITS EFFORTS TO REACH PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH AND ITS ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PROCESS. SENATOR EMPHASIZED FRIENDLY TIES WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN US AND PAKISTAN AND INDICATED PLEASURE WITH WHICH HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ANTICIPATED PRIME MINISTERS BHUTTO'S SEPTEMBER VISIT TO US. SENATOR STRESSED THAT EARLY REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANI PRISONERS-OF-WAR WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS. SENATOR EXPRESSED HIS DEEP CONCERN OVER WIDESPREAD AND DESTRUCTIVE FLOODS IN PUNJAB AND SIND AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER STEPS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEING TAKEN BY US ADMINISTRATION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN CONCERT WITH OTHER NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO REPORT TO HIM ON FLOOD SITUATION.

4. GOP MADE EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT HIS RECEPTION HERE WAS WARM AND USEFUL. SENATOR'S SKILL IN HANDLING PRESS,

PERSONAL CHARM AND INTEREST IN WELFARE OF PAKISTAN MADE
DEEP IMPRESSION ON ALL HE MET. FROM US MISSION'S POINT OF
VIEW, VISIT WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL BY UNDERSCORING CON-
TINUED INTEREST OF PROMINENT AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS IN
PAKISTAN'S PERFORMANCE AND PROMISE; SENATOR PERCY'S VISIT
PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT REASSURANCE TO PAKISTANI
OFFICIALDOM OF OUR INTEREST IN COUNTRY'S WELFARE.
SOBER

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